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FOR ACTING SECRETARY FROM BUNKER

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

REF: STATE 101637

1. I OF COURSE SHARE YOUR CONCERN OVER THE PROSPECTS FOR A FAIR AND CREDIBLE OUTCOME OF THE COMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. TO CLARIFY THE OUTLOOK I AM CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN CONSULTING PERSONALLY THE MAIN DRAMATIS PERSONAE FOR THEIR VIEWS AND INTENTIONS IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING PASSAGE OF THE ELECTION LAWS. I HAD KY TO LUNCH ON JUNE 2; MINH LUNCHES WITH ME TOMORROW, JUNE 11; AND I EXPECT TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT WITH THIEU JUNE 12.

2. I, TOO, HAVE BEEN CONCERNED BY RECENT ANTI-OPPOSITION ACTIONS AND PROPOSE TO TAKE THESE UP WITH THIEU.

3. I SHALL GIVE YOU MY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS SOON AS I HAVE COMPLETED THESE CONSULTATIONS. I ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THE ENTIRE SUBJECT WITH YOU NEXT WEEK IN WASHINGTON.
BUNKER

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Szuberg DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XD☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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